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1938

LAUNCESTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

1938

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for 1938:-

SECTION A:- Statistics & Social Conditions.

Table 1.

Area	73,187 acres.
Population	6,347
No. of Inhabited Houses	1,874
Product of Penny Rate	£65. 6. 9.
Social conditions	Main Industry - Agriculture.
Unemployment	Of negligible proportions.

Table II.

Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.	Rate per 1000.	England & Wales
DEATHS:-	84	37	47	11.0	11.6
LIVE BIRTHS:-	73	35	38	11.5	15.1
Legitimate	73	35	38)		
Illegitimate	-	-	-)		
STILL BIRTHS:-	5	4	1	.79	.60
Legitimate	5	4	1)		
Illegitimate	-	-	-)		

Table II. (continued)

Deaths From Puerperal Causes.

	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1000 Total Live & Still Births.	England & Wales.
Puerperal Sepsis	1	12.8	.89
Other Puerperal Causes	0		2.11
TOTAL	1	12.8	

	Total Deaths	Rate per 1000 Live Births.	England & Wales.
Deaths under one year:-	4	54.8	53
Legitimate	4	54.8)	
Illegitimate	-	-)	

Table III

This Table shows the causes of the 84 deaths as Classified by the Registrar General.

	Males.	Females
Deaths from all Causes:-	37	47
Diphtheria	-	1
Influenza	1	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
Cancer	3	8
Diabetes	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	4
Heart Disease	10	13
Other circulatory diseases	4	2
Bronchitis	2	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
Other respiratory disease	-	1
Other Liver disease	2	1
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	-	1
Congenital debility, Prematurity etc.	2	2
Senility	-	1
Suicide	2	-
Other violence	3	2
Other defined diseases	3	4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11
Measles "	0
Whooping Cough "	0
Diarrhoea (under 2.years)	0

Comments:-

The death rate from Cancer has decreased from 14. in 1936 to 12. in 1937 & to 11. in 1938.

The death rate from Tuberculosis has decreased from 2. in 1937 to 1. in 1938.

Section B. Ambulance Facilities.

The area is supplied by the St.Johns Ambulance, which provides an efficient and adequate service on a voluntary basis.

TABLE IV

SANITARY SECTION.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Launceston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report and Summary of Work carried out during the year 1938.

The year has been a busy one; and on looking back, a certain amount of satisfaction may be felt in recalling that slow but steady progress was maintained.

The chief event was the erection of the first batch of Council houses. These three houses were built on an open site above Altarnun Village. It is worth recalling that, although Tenders were advertised for in the local press and elsewhere, only one builder submitted a price to the Council.

These houses were built to re-house persons displaced from condemned property. It is pleasing to record that the Council is considering building further cottages for Agricultural Workers in the following parishes:-
Lewannick, Lezant, and Stokeclimsland.
When these houses are completed it is to be hoped that care will be taken in choosing worthy tenants.

During the year 14.Water Closets, & 5.Bathrooms have been installed for existing houses in the following parishes:-

Stokeclimsland	7.W.Cs.	:	3. Baths.
Southpetherwin	1.W.C.	:	1. Bath
Lezant	1.W.C.	:	1. Bath
Trewen	2.W.Cs.		
Egloskerry, Altarnun, Lewannick	1.W.C. each.		

HOUSING

Mention has already been made that three Council houses were completed and occupied in the parish of Altarnun. Certain improvements should be incorporated in future houses, including a different type of Cooking Range. The old-fashioned American type Range, whilst proving satisfactory

for cooking, is wasteful of fuel, and also a cheerless form of fire for a family to have to sit by during the long dark Winter evenings. At little extra cost, modern and more satisfactory Stoves may be obtained.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

Five houses were re-conditioned under these Acts, and four others were in course of re-conditioning at the end of the year.

13. Official applications have been received and a Grant of £100 offered in the case of 12 houses; the other application was refused as it did not comply with the Byelaws. Two applications have since been withdrawn and the cottages concerned are unoccupied.

The Housing Committee have adopted a reasonably high standard before offering a Grant, & the cost of reconditioning the first ten properties works out at an average of £242. 6. 3. per cottage.

Property owners have been slow to avail themselves of this free cash grant, a mounting in most cases to £100, for reconditioning their old cottages.

Here I would like to make clear two points:-

1) The Grant is a cash Grant & NOT a repayable Loan
2) An owner may increase his rent 4% on the actual money he spends himself.

New Housing

11.Houses and 3.Bungalows have been erected during the year. This total includes the 3.Council Houses at Altarnun. All the 11. houses were built for letting to members of the working classes.

These new dwellings were situated in the following parishes:-

Stokeclimsland	...	6. cottages
Altarnun	...	3. cottages
St.Stephens Rural	...	2. cottages
St.Thomas Rural	...	1. bungalow
Southpetherwin	...	1. bungalow
Tremaine	...	1. bungalow

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1938.

Under the above Act, private persons are now entitled, under certain conditions, to obtain from the Council a Grant up to but not exceeding £10 a year for 40.years, for building cottages to house agricultural workers. The chief conditions attached to the Grants are:-

1) The sites must be in an isolated position where it would be more convenient for the houses to be built by private enterprise than by the Local Authority.

2) The houses must be up to the standard of Council houses.

3) They must be occupied by members of the agricultural population.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1938. (continued)

4. Where rent is charged it must not exceed the rent fixed by the local Agricultural Wages Committee for tied cottages.

This should be a fine opportunity for agriculturalists to keep the best labour on the land by providing them with decent houses.

Any further information will be given willingly, if interested persons will communicate with me.

Old Houses

A cottage at Trebeath,Egloskerry, has been completely reconditioned, whilst another cottage at Rezare, Lezant, has been closed voluntarily by the owner.

86. cottages were inspected during the year and 21. cottages were repaired; two of these after formal notice, the remaining 19. after informal notice.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Section D. Housing.

I. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year for housing defects	86
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	209
(2)	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	63.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	68
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4)		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	25

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 19

III Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9,10, & 16, of the Housing Act 1936.

HOUSING STATISTICS (continued)

III A.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. 2

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of ~~final~~ formal notices:-

(a) By owners 2

(b) By Local Authority in default ..... Nil

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... Nil

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ..... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default ..... Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13. of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... Nil

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12. of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... Nil

OVERCROWDING

From my last years Report there were 8. cases of overcrowding. During the year two cases were abated; one being in the Parish of Warbstow where arrangements were made for sleeping out, the other in the Parish of South Petherwin where the family found alternative accommodation.

A further case of overcrowding came to my notice in the Parish of St.Thomas Rural.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The number of private slaughterhouses in the district is the same as last year - 20.

Two slaughterhouses were improved during the year, - extra light and ventilation was provided at a slaughterhouse at Laneast, and at Stokeclimsland a slaughterhouse was enlarged and better light and ventilation provided.

Meat Inspection occupied a large part of my duties and 576 visits were paid for the purpose.

MEAT INSPECTION (Continued)

It was found necessary to condemn and have destroyed as being unfit for the food of man, the following:-

16. Bullock Carcases and Offal
33. Sheep ditto
1. Pig ditto
1. Carcase of Veal
47. Pigs Heads.
4. Hind quarters of beef
1. Leg of pork
Many diseased organs.

All the above was surrendered voluntarily, and in no case was it necessary to apply for a Magistrate's Order.

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year the Council engaged the services of Major A.H.S.Waters, M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., as their Consulting Engineer.

Major Walters made a survey of the district, and his comprehensive report was considered by the Council: At a later meeting Major Walters attended in person to enlarge upon his report.

The main proposed scheme was that the Intake and works should be at Bowithick with Mains varying from 6 inches to 3 inches to carry the water to villages as far apart as Southpetherwin, Lewannick, & Northill. Warbstow was to have a scheme of its own, and Stokeclimsland to be supplied from the South East Cornwall Water Board.

The estimated cost of the Bowithick Scheme (Works and Contingencies only) was £33,000 and the total number of houses that could be supplied 420, with an estimated population of 1,600.

The Council ~~feel~~ felt that, even at this heavy cost, several parishes would receive no benefit. The question was deferred until such time as the Ministry of Health are in a position to make a substantial Grant.

In my opinion the scheme was too ambitious; and I feel that smaller local schemes would have been more suitable than many miles of unproductive pipeline.

Stokeclimsland village is well supplied with a piped supply from the Duchy of Cornwall.

59. visits were paid for the purpose of inspecting private wells & water supplies, and 8.samples of water were taken for analysis.

MILK SUPPLIES

In last years Report the question of Milk production was fully reviewed, and I do not propose adding to my remarks of 1937.

168. visits were made for the purpose of inspecting Cowsheds & Dairies. Several Notices were served requiring Cowkeepers to whitewash walls & for general cleaning 9. cowsheds were provided with proper cement standings & channels.

MILK SUPPLIES (continued)

Owing to death, the only producer of Tuberculin Tested Milk was removed from the Register.

One Cowkeeper has been admitted to the list of Accredited producers, making a total of 17.

It is interesting, if sad, to state that in a dairy farming district such as this, there are families who are unable to buy fresh milk and are forced to rely on the tinned variety. The reason for this being that nearly all our producers are wholesalers, and unless the producers go to the extra trouble and expense of registering as Retailers with the Milk Marketing Board, they are forbidden from selling a pint or so of milk to neighbouring cottagers.

During the year a sediment tester was bought for testing the cleanliness of milk. I have found this instrument most useful for convincing certain producers of the amount of visible dirt that can be filtered on to the pads from one pint of milk produced under insanitary conditions.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Houses Inspected	86
Visits to above	209
Houses Repaired	21
Visits to houses in course of reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.	143
Visits to new buildings	107
Visits to Cowsheds & Dairies	168
Visits to Slaughterhouses etc.	576
Visits to Schools	19
Fumigations	17
Visits re Water Supplies	59
Visits to Factories & Workshops	12
Visits re complaints and nuisances	38
Visits re drainage works	51
Unclassified visits etc.	58
Total visits =	1564

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. A. JUDD.

Sanitary Inspector.

Prevalence of, & control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Pneumonia	19	Not available	2
Erysepelas	1	-	-

Classification of age incidence of infectious disease in the area.

	AGE											
	Under 1.year.	1-2	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	1		1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	4	1	4	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysepelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases & Mortality for 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases 9.				Deaths 1.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There were no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths.

The efficiency of notification in the area is satisfactory.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr.Judd for the high standard of his work and for his assistance which has been invaluable.

P. O'F. BOYLE M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,

Medical Officer of Health.